

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a response to the amendment and remarks/arguments filed on 12/12/2007.
2. Claims 3, 17, 20, 21, 23 are canceled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Vincent T. Pace on 01/22/2008.

Claims:

In Claim 10, line 8, after the wording "pattern," the word "and" has been deleted, and the following wording has been inserted: -- ; *filtering each acquired signal to isolate the oscillatory component therefrom*; --.

In Claim 10, line 10, after the word "signals" the comma has been deleted, and the following wording has been inserted: -- ; *and* --.

In Claim 10, line 11, the wording "whereby the measured characteristics when combined in their relative positions generate" has been deleted, and the following wording has been inserted: -- *generating* --.

In Claim 10, line 12, after the word "specimen", the following wording has been inserted: -- *by combining the measured characteristics when combined in their*

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relative positions; wherein the measuring and filtering steps are performed by a plurality of signal processors, each signal processor having a feedback loop provided by an amplifier, a low-pass filter and a current source, the feedback loop rejecting a time-invariant component of the respective acquired signal and amplifying the oscillatory component of that signal. --.

The new Claim 10 as followed:

-- A method of processing optical signals to generate an optically sectioned image comprising:

receiving data which comprises a plurality of signals previously acquired by performing the steps of (i) illuminating a specimen with a temporally modulating illumination pattern, (ii) imaging said specimen on a conjugate image plane, and (iii) acquiring a plurality of signals at respective positions on said image plane, each signal corresponding to the incident light intensity at that position and having an oscillatory component caused by the modulation of the illumination pattern;

filtering each acquired signal to isolate the oscillatory component therefrom;

measuring a characteristic of the oscillatory component of each of the signals; *and* generating an optically sectioned image of the specimen *by combining the measured characteristics when combined in their relative positions;*

wherein the measuring and filtering steps are performed by a plurality of signal processors, each signal processor having a feedback loop provided by an amplifier, a low-pass filter and a current source, the feedback loop rejecting a time-invariant component of the respective acquired signal and amplifying the oscillatory component of that signal.--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-2, 4-16, 18-19, 22, 24-25 are allowed.
4. The allowable Subject matter was indicated in office Action mailed on 09/13/2007.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: No prior art found by the examiner that suggested modification or combination with the cited art so as to satisfy the combination of all the limitations in claim 1, claim10, and claim 11.
6. As to claim 1, claim10, and claim 11, the prior art of record taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious “the feedback loop rejecting a time-invariant component of the respective acquired signal and amplifying the oscillatory component of that signal” in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1, claim10, and claim 11.

The dependent claims 2, 4-9, 12-16, 18-19, 22, 24-25 are allowed by virtue of their dependence upon claim 1.

Fax/Telephone Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri T. Ton whose telephone number is (571) 272-9064. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:30am - 7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr. can be reached on (571) 272-2059. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Gregory J. Toatley, Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2877

Examiner Tri Ton/SN

January 28, 2008
Examiner Tri Ton/SN